

Of B'nai B'rith

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FLASH -- RON NESSEN
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① Bt
② File

DAVID A. BRODY
Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, D. C., August 25, 1976..The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today expressed approval of the White House repudiation of a statement made by Mr. John C. Bennison, Acting General Counsel of the Council on International Economic Policy in the Executive Office of the President on the Stevenson-Williams anti-boycott bill.

In opposing the public disclosure provisions of the bill, Mr. Bennison said should it become public knowledge that a company is complying with the Arab boycott, it then "could be harrassed by certain New York interest groups."

When the ADL learned of the Bennison statement which was contained in a letter dated August 10 to Mr. Anthony Scotto of the International Longshoremen's Association, David A. Brody, the League's Washington Representative, communicated with the White House to express the League's "shock and outrage" at what the League called "a not unsubtle appeal to prejudice". The White House quickly responded and

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released the following letter to the League:

"A letter purporting to outline the Administration's position on Arab boycott legislation was brought to our attention this morning by the White House Legislative Affairs Office, as well as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and an immediate inquiry was undertaken. The letter was written by a staff lawyer at CIEP who should not have attempted to summarize the Administration's position on a complex issue. In referring to 'certain New York interest groups' the lawyer's summary and choice of words are offensive and inappropriate. He regrets his action and has apologized. The lawyer emphasized that he had not intended to offend anyone."

* * * * *

This letter is attached